



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

March 24, 2021

TO: Coastal Sharks Management Board, Advisory Panel and Technical Committee

FROM: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator

RE: Retention Limit of Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Groups increase to 55 Sharks per Trip

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has increased the retention limit for the commercial aggregated large coastal shark and hammerhead shark management groups (Appendix 1) for directed shark limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region from 36 to 55 sharks per vessel per trip effective yesterday March 23, 2021. The retention limit will remain at 55 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip in the Atlantic region through the rest of the 2021 fishing season or until NOAA Fisheries announces another adjustment to the retention limit or a fishery closure via the Federal Register.

As agreed upon by the Commission's Coastal Sharks Management Board (in December 2015), the Commission will follow NMFS for in-season changes to the commercial retention limit, therefore, no more than 55 sharks per vessel per trip may be retained from the aggregated large coastal and hammerhead management groups by **a state licensed fishermen** effective March 23, 2021.

The Federal Register commercial retention limit notification will be published on March 26 at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-06310/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-commercial-aggregated-large-coastal-shark-and-hammerhead-shark>. Shark landings can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishery-landings-and-retention-limit-updates>.

Please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (703) 842-0723 or krootes-murdy@asmfc.org if you have questions.

Appendix 1

The list of the species within the aggregated large coastal shark and hammerhead management groups.

Aggregated Large Coastal	
Silky	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Tiger	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
Blacktip	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>
Spinner	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>
Bull	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>
Lemon	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>
Nurse	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>
Hammerhead	
Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>